

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image reading apparatus comprising:
 - a reading apparatus main body having a document base for placing a original document and scanning means for scanning an image of the original document placed by the document base;
 - a document pressing device which is provided such that the apparatus is rotatable with respect to the reading apparatus main body; and
 - an opening/closing unit which supports the document pressing device such that the apparatus is capable of being opened/closed with respect to the reading apparatus main body and has a mechanism for applying a predetermined force in a direction of opening the document pressing device,
 - wherein the document pressing device has a pressing plate for pressing the original document placed on the document base and plurality of elastic members provided on a face opposite to the document base of the pressing plate, and
 - the restoration forces of the plurality of elastic members generated by deformation when the document pressing device is closed with respect to the reading apparatus main body are set to be smaller such that the elastic members go apart from the center of rotating of the document pressing device.

2. The image reading apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the plurality of elastic members have a smaller thickness of the elastic member as the elastic member are disposed at a farther position from the center of rotating of the document pressing device.

3. The image reading apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the plurality of elastic members have a smaller modulus of elasticity as the elastic members are disposed at a farther position from the center of rotating of the document pressing device.

4. The image reading apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the plurality of elastic members have a smaller contact area with the pressing plate as the elastic members are disposed at a farther position from the center of rotating of the document pressing device.

5. The image reading apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

holding means for holding a gap between the document pressing device and the document base at a predetermined gap; and adjusting means for adjusting the predetermined gap by the holding means.

6. The image reading apparatus according to claim

1,

wherein the document pressing device has a document feeding means which conveys the original document to a scanning position on a document base.

7. The image forming apparatus comprising:

an image reading apparatus for scanning a document image; and

an image forming unit for forming an image based on information of the scanned document image,

wherein the image reading apparatus is the image reading apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 6.